



## AKWESASNE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

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### **Oversight Committee on Legislative Development actively working on the development of three laws: Cannabis, Emergency Management and Elections**

As per MCR 2021/2022 #055 the Mohawk Council of Akwasasne has approved the creation of an Oversight Committee on Legislative Development with Working Task Groups. The purpose of the Oversight Committee is to draft legislation that protects, exercises, and advances the inherent rights of the Mohawks of Akwasasne in accordance with the principles of peace, respect, and fairness.

The Oversight Committee on Legislative Development consists of three (3) District Community Members, Justice Portfolio Chiefs, and the Justice Coordinator. The Working Task Groups consists of Oversight Committee members and technical expert personnel specific to the law being developed.

The Oversight Committee and Working Task Groups will work in accordance with the Legislative Enactment Procedural Regulation while maintaining a committed engagement with the community and act as a bridge of mutual commutation between Community Members and Council. They will jointly oversee legislative development between Council and district community members; and utilize working task groups as three subcommittees to produce one law per year for a total of three Akwasasne Laws.

The Akwasasne Legislative Enactment Procedural Regulations was approved by Council on December 8, 2021, by MCR 2021/2022 - #233 and consists of five (5) phases of law development which include:

- Phase I – Development of Proposed Law: WTG develops a draft law for Council consideration.
- Phase II – Acceptance “In Principle” of the draft Akwasasne Law: Council approves said law to proceed to Phase III.
- Phase III – Community Consultation Information Meetings to discuss the draft proposed law.
- Phase IV – Enactment of an Akwasasne Law: Review of changes to the law based on consultation and WTG review. Council may accept the draft proposed law “In Principle” allowing the law to move to either referendum or Special General Meeting voting.
- Phase V – Ratification and/or Rejection Procedures after Enactment of the Akwasasne Law



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The Working Task Groups were established in January and began their work on Phase I Development of the following laws:

- 1) Emergency Management Law
- 2) Amendments to the Election Law
- 3) Cannabis Law

Community Consultation Information Meetings: Once Phase I - Draft Law Development has been approved "In Principle" by Council the community engagement sessions will be coordinated and conducted.

The Oversight Committee in conjunction with the Working task Groups shall explain the purpose and provisions of the proposed Akwesasne law. Information meetings may be accomplished by:

- In person meetings
- Virtual meetings
- By appointment with the Justice Coordinator
- Email and Write-In comments will also be accepted with name, date and signature.

Please do monitor MCA social media and Indian Time for information on the progress for these laws and the community information sessions.

For further information: Please contact the Akwesasne Justice Department, Justice Coordinator at: [connie.lazore@akwesasne.ca](mailto:connie.lazore@akwesasne.ca).